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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5589
INFO RUCNCCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1070
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 1685
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0708
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1279
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2156
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0942
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 1493
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 3304
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 0282
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0779
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE PRIORITY 0094
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0300
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1232

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 000856

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STATE PASS ISN/CB AND EUR/PRA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/08/2017

TAGS: PARM PREL CBW CA

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA GROUP: CANADA RETAINS FOCUS ON RUSSIA

REF: STATE 58355

Classified By: PolMinCouns Brian Flora. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (U) We delivered reftel points on May 8 to Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Non-proliferation Policy Officer Kendra Davidson. Canada, she assured us, would send its usual delegation of both policy and "hands-on" enforcement personnel to Paris.

¶2. (C) Responding to reftel points four through six, Davidson remarked that at last year's Australia Group (AG) plenary Canada had emphasized its interest in finding out more about Russia's chemical and biological weapons (CBW) programs, its oversight capacity, and related trade controls. To date Russian officials have not responded to GOC requests for information, Davidson said. Instead, they have insisted that, unlike other prospective members who must apply for membership, Russia should be invited to join the AG. Russia's UNSCR 1540 report reflects the GOR's determined obfuscation, she groused, "It creates the impression of strong oversight without identifying the who and the how."

¶3. (C) Canada dislikes France's suggestion that the AG invite Russia to attend as an observer, Davidson said. Rather, Canada would "to a point" support the Australian proposal that there be an AG Secretariat-led discussion with Russia regarding its CBW programs. Meantime, Canadian authorities would appreciate any available USG reporting and analysis on Russia's CBW and related capacity before the June 4-7 AG plenary.

¶4. (SBU) Kendra Davidson's contact information:
Telephone: (613) 944-1308
E-mail: Kendra.Davidson@international.gc.ca

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